

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action dated September 23, 2003 indicates that Claims 1-5, 15 and 16 are allowed, for which indication the Applicants express their appreciation.

The Office Action further indicates that Claims 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 9, 10, 17 and 18 have been indicated as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The art rejections against Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15 – 18 being withdrawn.

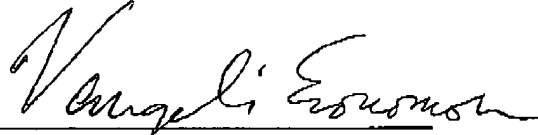
Claims 13 and 14 have been objected as being duplicative of the limitations of Claims 13 and 14, whereby Applicants have cancelled Claims 13 and 14.

New claims 19-23 have been added to more precisely claim and distinctly point out the subject matter considered by the Applicants to be their invention. Each of Claims 19 – 23 depend on Claims 1 or 5, which are indicated as being allowed. Thus, no new consideration or search is required so as to permit allowance of these claims, as well as the other pending and allowed claims. Claims 6-8 having been cancelled, and the number of claims pending in this application is identical to the number of claims that were pending prior to the amendment. Thus, no fee is considered necessary.

For the above reasons, it is considered that the pending claims, as amended, and new Claims 19-23 find support in the application specification as filed, and that the combination of elements recited in the pending claims, as amended, distinguish over the references of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and objections are respectfully requested and an indication of allowable subject matter is earnestly solicited.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of consideration of the IDS that was forwarded with the Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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